Application No. 09/970,455
Amendment A
Attorney Docket No. AGIL-01600
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1   1.   (Currently Amended): A method for creating a supplier rating matrix for rating services

2   of a supplier, the method comprising:

3   ~~defining a plurality of job attributes each including a plurality of sub-attributes, each sub-~~

4   ~~attribute representing a range of job attribute values;~~

5   defining a <u>first</u> job attribute vector, the <u>first</u> job attribute vector including ~~a plurality of~~

6   ~~dimensions each corresponding to~~ a <u>set of</u> sub-attributes<u>, the set of sub-attributes including at</u>

7   <u>least one of a plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and</u>

8   <u>a plurality of ranges of times;</u>

9   ~~defining a plurality of performance metrics;~~

10   defining a <u>first</u> performance vector, the <u>first</u> performance vector including ~~a plurality of~~

11   ~~dimensions each corresponding to~~ a <u>set of</u> performance metrics<u>;</u>

12   defining a first supplier rating matrix;

13   defining a first filter constant, wherein the first filter constant is value between 0 and 1;

14   ~~defining a first initial value for the job attribute vector;~~

15   ~~defining a second initial value for the performance vector; and~~

16   ~~generating a supplier rating matrix for the supplier by mathematically combining the job~~

17   ~~attribute vector and the performance vector.~~

18   calculating a first term, the first term being a product of at least the first filter constant,

19   the first performance vector, and the first job attribute vector;

20   calculating a second term, the second term being a product of at least 1- the first filter

21   constant and the first supplier rating matrix;

22   adding the first term to the second term, wherein a second supplier rating matrix is

23   created;

24   calculating a first weighted average from each element of the second supplier rating

25   matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier rating score.

1   2.   (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~wherein the job attribute vector is a first~~

2   ~~job attribute vector, the performance vector is a first performance vector and the supplier rating~~

3   ~~matrix is a first supplier rating matrix~~ further comprising;

4   ~~receiving data associated with a specific service supplied to a customer of the supplier;~~

Application No. 09/970,455
Amendment A
Attorney Docket No. AGIL-01600
Page 3

5   generating a second performance vector in response to the received data;

6   generating a second job attribute vector in response to the specific service, the second job

7   attribute vector indicating which range of job attribute values are associated with the specific

8   service;

9   defining a second filter constant, wherein the second filter constant is value between 0

10   and 1; weighting factor; and

11   generating a second supplier rating matrix for the supplier by mathematically combining

12   the first supplier rating matrix, the weighting factor, the second job attribute vector and the

13   second performance vector.

14   calculating a third term, the third term being a product of at least the second filter

15   constant, the second performance vector, and the second job attribute vector;

16   calculating a fourth term, the fourth term being a product of at least 1- the second filter

17   constant and the second supplier rating matrix;

18   adding the third term to the fourth term wherein a third supplier rating matrix is created;

19   calculating a second weighted average from each element of the third supplier rating

20   matrix, wherein the second weighted average is a second supplier rating score.

1   Claim 3-5 (Canceled)

1   6.   (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, the set of sub-attributes is defined further

2   comprising defining the plurality of job attributes and the plurality of sub-attributes using a

3   technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   Claim 7-8 (Canceled)

1   9.   (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising defining the plurality

2   of performance metrics to, wherein the set of performance metrics includes at least one of speed,

3   quality, cost and service.

1   Claim 10-18 (Canceled):

1   19.   (New): An article of manufacture having computer-readable program means for creating

2   a supplier rating matrix for rating services of a supplier, the article comprising:

3   computer-readable program means for defining a first job attribute vector, the first job

4   attribute vector including a set of sub-attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of

5   a plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality

6   of ranges of times;

7   computer-readable program means for defining a first performance vector, the first

8   performance vector including a set of performance metrics;

9   computer-readable program means for defining a first supplier rating matrix;

10   computer-readable program means for defining a first filter constant, wherein the first

11   filter constant is value between 0 and 1;

12   computer-readable program means for calculating a first term, the first term being a

13   product of at least 1- the first filter constant and the first supplier rating matrix;

14   computer-readable program means for calculating a second term, the second term being a

15   product of at least the first filter constant, the first performance vector, and the first job attribute

16   vector;

17   computer-readable program means for adding the first term to the second term, wherein a

18   second supplier rating matrix is created;

19   computer-readable program means for calculating a first weighted average from each

20   element of the second supplier rating matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier

21   rating score.

1   20.   (New): The article of claim 19 further comprising;

2   computer-readable program means for supplied to a customer of the supplier;

3   computer-readable program means for generating a second performance vector in

4   response to the received data;

5   computer-readable program means for generating a second job attribute vector in

6   response to the specific service;

7   computer-readable program means for defining a second filter constant, wherein the

8   second filter constant is value between 0 and 1;

9   computer-readable program means for calculating a third term, the third term being a

10   product of at least the second filter constant, the second performance vector, and the second job

11   attribute vector;

12   computer-readable program means for calculating a fourth term, the fourth term being a

13   product of at least 1- the second filter constant and the second supplier rating matrix;

14   computer-readable program means for adding the third term to the fourth term wherein a

15   third supplier rating matrix is created;

16   computer-readable program means for calculating a second weighted average from each

17   element of the third supplier rating matrix, wherein the second weighted average is a second

18   supplier rating score.

1   21.   (New): The article of claim 19, wherein the set of sub-attributes is defined using a

2   technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   22.   (New): The method of claim 19 wherein the set of performance metrics includes at least

2   one of speed, quality, cost and service.

1   23.   (New): A system for creating a supplier rating matrix for rating services of a supplier,

2   the system including a CPU and a program stored in a computer readable medium configured to

3   execute a set of interface modules, the system comprising:

4   an interface module adapted to define a first job attribute vector, the first job attribute

5   vector including a set of sub-attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of a

6   plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality of

7   ranges of times;

8   an interface module adapted to define a first performance vector, the first performance

9   vector including a set of performance metrics;

10   an interface module adapted to define a first supplier rating matrix;

11   an interface module adapted to define a first filter constant, wherein the first filter

12   constant is value between 0 and 1;

13   an interface module adapted to calculate a first term, the first term being a product of at

14   least 1- the first filter constant and the first supplier rating matrix;

15   an interface module adapted to calculate a second term, the second term being a product

16   of at least the first filter constant, the first performance vector and the first job attribute vector;

17   an interface module adapted to add the first term to the second term, wherein a second

18   supplier rating matrix is created;

Application No. 09/970,455
Amendment A
Attorney Docket No. AGIL-01600
Page 6

19   an interface module adapted to calculate a first weighted average from each element of

20   the second supplier rating matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier rating

21   score.

1   24.   (New): The system of claim 23 further comprising;

2   an interface module adapted to generate a second performance vector in response to the

3   received data;

4   an interface module adapted to generate a second job attribute vector in response to the

5   specific service;

6   an interface module adapted to define a second filter constant wherein the second filter

7   constant is value between 0 and 1;

8   an interface module adapted to calculate a third term, the third term being a product of

9   the second filter constant, the second performance vector and the second job attribute vector;

10   an interface module adapted to calculate a fourth term, the fourth term being a product of

11   1- the second filter constant and the second supplier rating matrix;

12   an interface module adapted to add the third term to the fourth term wherein a third

13   supplier rating matrix is created;

14   an interface module adapted to calculate a second weighted average from each element of

15   the third supplier rating matrix, wherein the second weighted average is a second supplier rating

16   score.

1   25.   (New): The system of claim 23, wherein the set of sub-attributes is defined using a

2   technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   26.   (New): The system of claim 23 wherein the set of performance metrics includes at least

2   one of speed, quality, cost and service.